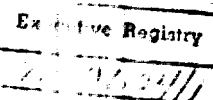


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ADMINISTRATION

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

20 MAY 1971

Dear Bronson:

Thank you for your letter of May 14, 1971 concerning ways to insure the DCI's participation in DoD intelligence resource decisions. I am committed to do whatever is appropriate and necessary to support the DCI role in the community. Therefore, any questions I raise concerning the thoughts expressed in your letter will go to the means and not the end objective.

Representatives of the DCI have a number of opportunities to influence the intelligence budget process through participation in the CDIP review. In addition, even after the PDM is issued there is, as a practical matter, time for the DCI to make his views known effectively prior to final decision on the budget.

I question the advisability of the NIRB participation in the intimate details of the allocation of Defense intelligence resources. Such participation would inevitably prolong the budgetary process. Of equal concern is the fact that the Secretary of Defense has full responsibility for Defense assets and it is questionable whether a non-DoD entity should be an integral part of the budgetary process. Nevertheless, the fact does remain that the DCI does have a major responsibility to the President for the intelligence product and resources inevitably affect this product. Certainly the DCI should -- and will -- be heard during the CDIP review and when any major allocation issues arise.

Let's get together and discuss an arrangement whereby we can avoid undue interference and still make certain the DCI can fulfill his community-wide responsibilities.

Sincerely,

BDF

Robert F. Froehlke

Mr. Bronson Tweedy  
Office of the Director of Central  
Intelligence  
Washington, D. C. 20505

P. S. Major issues to be faced at the CDIP review are already being formulated. Unless you disagree, Hal's people will begin to bring J. J. in on the discussions!

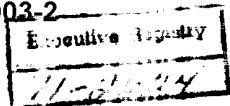
Bob

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14 May 1971

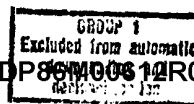
The Honorable Robert F. Froehke  
Assistant Secretary (Administration)  
Department of Defense  
Room 3E 822  
The Pentagon

Dear Bob:

I thought it might be useful to you to expand a bit on what I had in mind when I called you on Tuesday about the cuts in the Defense intelligence programs. That cuts may be necessary in the climate of the day is not something I (or Dick Helms for that matter) would attempt to argue about. What is of concern is where they may be taken and what impact this may have on the national intelligence product for which the DCI has so clear a responsibility to the President. I realize this is also of concern to you and your Program Managers. My purpose in raising it is to ensure that the DCI, on behalf of the community, is able to make his contribution to the deliberations which will be essential before the budgetary programs move into their final stages. When these are reached, as we both know, there is little or no room for maneuver.

As a practical matter, the DCI will wish to make a contribution to the Defense decisions on these issues and will therefore need the advice of the NIRB on the options available. I would suggest that we could take the major issues raised by the proposed cuts, table the DASD/I and Program Managers' proposals as alternatives, identify the products and performance of the operations to be cut and reach a NIRB determination on each as advice to the DCI. You and Hal Bowen would of course play your full role in the NIRB sessions which would follow each examination, and Program Managers could also appear to make their cases. Realizing full well that this will involve a period of great activity for the NIRB process, we would only undertake those reviews where issues appear important enough and where NIRB would clearly have the time and capability to produce a professional judgment.

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It would be my hope that such an examination would not only produce a responsible recommendation for the DCI's consideration but would also support you by placing before you all the relevant factors and cross program substantive considerations. To accomplish this NIRB would work through the appropriate substantive USIB committees, and also tap the producers to be affected in State and DIA, as well as CIA.

If you concur with this approach, we will need to consult on means to bring the proposals before NIRB as quickly as possible, probably via a close working arrangement between this office and the DASD/I staff.

I might add that Dick Helms is quite prepared to have the USIB committees do the necessary, and Bob Cushman is similarly ready with NIRB.

Please let me have your views as soon as you can. I have no illusions that some fast work will be needed.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Bronson Tweedy

Bronson Tweedy

NIPE:BT:dm

Distribution:

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